

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
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Enjoy this day City fans – it doesn't come around very often

Today's the day.

Thousands are deserting our region and heading for Wembley – 30 years since Norwich City last made an appearance there.

Coaches, cars and trains will be packed with fans as they head for the traditional home of football and the dramatic sight of the arch which dominates the new stadium.

A small army of loyal long-distance followers have jetted in from Canada, South Africa, Thailand, Australia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Dubai to see the Canaries' biggest game in decades.

Many thousands more will be at home or in the pub watching the play-off final against Middlesbrough.

The excitement has built up to fever pitch and nerves will be stretched to their limits as the team strives to regain its place in the Premier League.

Middlesbrough have beaten Norwich in the league, but none of that will matter when the teams take to the pitch this afternoon.

Experts estimate that promotion is worth as much as £130m to the club.

For the fans there is the mouth-watering prospect of playing against some of the game's biggest names.

For the city and the region there is the extra morale boost and status attached to being in the top flight.

We hope and trust our Canaries will be triumphant, and the EDP is looking forward to celebrating a great victory.

But for today – enjoy the occasion, have a fantastic day, and celebrate a great season.

On the ball City!

Lamb still has a role

Regardless of whether or not Norman Lamb agrees with the way our electoral system works, it is the hand the voters have dealt.

It is understandable that he would question how someone who he defeated in an election could arrive in the Department for Health as he leaves.

David Prior has a huge amount of experience, and plenty to offer. Like Mr Lamb, we wish him well in his new job.

But Mr Lamb's attention is now turned elsewhere. He is going for what will be an enormous job – leading what is left of his party. It will be no easy task.

And he goes from government to opposition.

As someone who has had experience in the vital health and business departments, he has a big role to play in holding this Conservative majority to account.

Take pride in festival

Around 70,000 people have enjoyed the music, art and drama of the 17-day arts extravaganza that is the Norfolk and Norwich Festival.

It has been, as always these days, a fantastic event in which we should all take great pride.

It is to be hoped that the recent reduction in funding goes no further, and that this wonderful celebration can continue in all its glory for many more years.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Val Bond sent in this colourful meadow in Gisleham. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk.

With dialect it's not what you say – it's how you say it

Peter
Trudgill



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My column last week was written in our local dialect. The point of my article was to show that "whatever can be written in Standard English can be written in dialect too".

Keith Spink kindly wrote a letter to the EDP saying he wasn't convinced.

I suspect this was because I didn't explain properly what the terms Standard English and dialect mean. Mr Spink wrote that the vocabulary of our dialect is "pathetically small" – that the words chiropodist and consultation don't exist in the Norfolk dialect – and that our syntax lacks "vital nuances".

He was also worried about problems with communication, citing the "baffle-ment" caused when London evacuees arrived here during the war.

I understand this concern, but the aim of my article was to show that any word used in Standard English can also be used in all other dialects. Norfolk dialect speakers can, if they want, use all the words employed by Standard English speakers and still be speaking Norfolk dialect, so long as they use Norfolk dialect grammar and pronunciation.

Standard English is a matter of grammar, not vocabulary. "My dad was pretty



■ Evacuees to Norfolk had no problem making themselves understood in the mix of Cockney and Norfolk dialects.

knackered after his long trip" is Standard English, while "My father were somewhat fatigued after his lengthy journey" isn't. My piece was clearly in the Norfolk dialect because I wrote "that make" and not "it makes". The fact that I used words such as "medium", "representation", and "uniformity" did not mean that I had suddenly switched over to Standard English, nor that I was writing an "attenuated form" of the dialect.

The syntax of our dialect varies little from that of Standard English, but where it does differ, it sometimes expresses nuances that Standard English doesn't. We can say "You done it, did you?" using distinct forms for the past tense of do as a

main verb and auxiliary verb. And we say "thass no good, I don't like it" making a distinction between the subject "that" and the object "it" which isn't available in Standard English.

And, as to the evacuees: a number of Cockney children thrived under the care of my Norfolk grandmother during the Second World War, with dialect differences causing not bafflement but amusement and interest.

Where there were difficulties, this was due to pronunciation, something which isn't relevant in discussions about writing.

It really is true that anything that can be written in Standard English could also be written in the Norfolk dialect.

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And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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